

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS STRESSES SELF-RELIANCE IN AFP ADDRESS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: DURING ANNUAL AFP LOYALTY DAY FESTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 10 (ON EVE OF PRESIDENT'S 58TH BIRTHDAY), COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MARCOS STRESSED NEED FOR COUNTRY TO DEVELOP MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE "TO ERASE ALL FORMS OF DEPENDENCE" AND TO REORDER FOREIGN ALIGNMENTS IN FACE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND A CHANGING "MATRIX OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS."
END SUMMARY.

2. WILTING AUDIENCE OF 4000 TROOPS, GOP DIGNITARIES, AND DIPLOMATS HEARD MARCOS CITE INITIATIVES HE HAS TAKEN TO PROMOTE PEACE AND ALSO ISSUE WARNING THAT "WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY, EVEN AGAINST AGGRESSION." TO DO THIS WE MUST HAVE A STRONG ARMED FORCE," HE SAID, " FOR IT IS OUR FINAL GUARANTEE OF SOVEREIGNTY WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS". SHOULD AGGRESSION OCCUR, THE PRESIDENT SAID SECURITY MUST BE ROOTED IN GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RELITIES AND NOT ON MISTAKEN FEARS OR DOUBIOUS DEPENDENCE ON THE PROFERED PROTECTION OF THE MIGHTY.

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3. SELF-RELIANCE, HE SAID, WILL BE PURSUED ON THREE FRONTS:

STRENGTHEN AFP, MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER/QUELL INTERNAL INSURGENCY, AND SHOULD BURDEN OF DEFENSE UNDER UMBRELLA OF REGIONAL BIG POWER BALANCE. SPELLING THIS OUT, MARCOS SAID, "THE BEST HOPE FOR PEACE LAY IN A COLLECTIVE DEFENSE POSTURE GUARANTEED BY AN EQUILIBRIUM OF POWER AMONG THE POWERFUL NATIONS." IN ATTAINING THE GOAL OF ASIAN HARMONY, MARCOS EMPHASIZED THAT "DIPLOMACY MUST REIGN AS OUR FIRST DEFENSE AND FIRST LINE OF SECURITY."

4. PRESIDENT ALSO ALLUDED TO PROGRESS IN SOLVING MINDANAO INSURGENCY, TO WHICH, HE SAID, PATIENCE OF AFP HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY. LITANY OF NEED FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION, AFP'S HISTORICAL ROLE IN RESISTING SAME, AND REQUIREMENT FOR READJUSTMENT IN LIGHT OF INDO-CHINA EVENTS DULY RECITED BUT WITHOUT RANCOR.

5. TASTEFUL, TEMPERATE TONE OF DAY'S ACTIVITIES SOMEWHAT BENT BY APPEARANCE OF SKILLED CARABAO TRAINED BY WIFE OF PHILIPPINE ARMY CHIEF ZAGALA WHICH BOWED TO PRESIDENT ON CUE AND ALSO BY BALLOON ASCENT OF GIANT MAOESQUE PORTRAIT OF MARCOS WHICH REMAINED SUSPENDED OVER PARADE GROUND.

6. INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE THAT OPENED DAY'S FESTIVITIES, CONTAINED RATHER PINTED PRAYERS, WHICH SUPPLIED ONLY CRITICAL COMMENT FOR INSTANCE, IMAM ELIJAS YSMAEL ASKED DIVINE GUIDANCE TO HELP LEADERS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO BEAR ONLY WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLE AT HEART AND TO SEEK WAYS TO PRESERVE PEACE AND CONCORD AMONG NATIONS, AND ASKED THAT ALL PRESENT TREAT EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY. VICAR GENERAL, BISHOP MARIANO GAVIOLA, CALLED UPON ALMIGHTY TO INSURE THAT CIVIL AUTHORITIES PROTECT AND HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT AND APPLY JUSTICE TO WRONGDOERS EVEN IF RICH OR POWERFUL.

7. ALL IN ALL, DAY MARKED BY MODERATION ON MARCOS'S PART AND BY SOME DISAPPOINTMENT ON MILITARY'S. MOST OFFICERS HAD EXPECTED MARCOS TO ANNOUNCE SIGNIFICANT PAY INCREASES AND RETIREMENT OF SOME OVERAGE SENIOR OFFICERS.

8. COMMENT: MARCOS'S REMARKS CONTAINED NOTHING NEW AND, IN FACT, CONFIDENTIAL

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REPEATED MANY FOREIGN POLICY POINTS HE AND HIS SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MAKING DURING LAST YEAR. SPEECH, HOWEVER, NOTWORTHY FOR THIS VERY TONE OF MODERATION, BLANCE, MINIMUM EMOTING AND ITS STATESMAN-LIKE VIEW OF PAST AND FUTURE PHILIPPINE/AMERICAN DEFENSE RELATIONS. SPEECH IS PROBABLY BEST AND CLEAREST STATEMENT OF CURRENT GOP FOREIGN POLICY TO DATE. SULLIVAN

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